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The Impact of Divorce on the Children’s Future Relationships

In recent years many married couples with children have fallen victim to divorce and the unfortunate factors that are associated with it. Children are unwillingly involved in the process and there are many aspects that don’t only change the divorcees’ lives but change their child’s life as well. While most people dwell on the immediate effects of the divorce, I would like to further explore the long-term impact a divorce has on a child by asking, “How much of an impact does divorce place on the child’s personal relationships in their stages of young adulthood?”

I felt this is a topic most do not think about because it is not an immediate effect of divorce. On the contrary, I do believe it is a major issue in many young people’s lives today and is very relatable. According to a journal written by Amber J. Ottaway, “one out of two marriages end in divorce” (36). This climbing trend of divorce will only lead to a rise in this issue. When a child is put into a family home that was torn apart by the loss of love for one another it really can but a strain on them not only mentally but emotionally as well. The age of the child during the divorce is considered a major factor in how a divorce affects them emotionally (37). I’ve observed through friends whose parents had divorced after a lengthy marriage that it often left them doubting relationships and asking questions such as, “If my parents divorced after many years of marriage, what are my chances of making a marriage last?”. I chose to write about this topic because, like many other individuals my age, I was a product of divorced parents at a very young age and have also wondered if growing up in a divorced family has had any effects on my life and my choices for a partner as well. Some of my friends had parents that divorced when they were in their teens while my parents divorced when I was a toddler. The age difference at the time of divorce gives us different outlooks on the subject. I would like to further examine these said effects and also see how they relate to one another. Examining more than one aspect of divorce strengthens my claims and adds solid evidence to my argument.

Since there is such a high increase in divorce rates in recent decades I know I am not the only one asking these questions. My audience will mainly be young adults aging from 18-24 years of age who are products of divorced parents. My research will look into the effects on the lives of college a student impacted within that age range but is not limited to them. I would like to further analyze and investigate the different factors such as age, gender, parental relationship status, and the effect of which parent has main custody of the child to determine the kinds of emotional impact divorce places on a young adult’s intimate relationship with a partner. I hope to answer many questions that numerous young adults have on the subject and help them understand how to cope with any negative effects that were placed due to the possibility of their parent’s divorce.

Work Cited

Ottoway, J. Amber. “The Impact of Parental Divorce on the Intimate Relationships of Adult Offspring: A Review of the Literature” *Graduate Journal of Counseling Psychology:*Vol. 2:Iss.1, Article 5.